

Tuesday February 13 1996

Table with international flight information including destinations like Abu Dhabi, Athens, Amsterdam, etc., and flight numbers.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Header section with three main articles: 'Ian Katz's 12-step programme', 'Universities in the year 2000', and 'Adrian Searle on ice sculpture'. Includes sub-headers like 'How to win an Oscar' and 'The Big Chill'.

Ministers draw up new scheme for forum aimed at winning support from Hume and Unionists
British peace plan emerges

Dublin seizes on new hope

Michael White, David Sharrock and Patrick Wintour

Fragile hopes of rescuing the Northern Ireland peace process emerged from the rubble of the IRA's South Quay bomb last night as the British and Irish governments groped towards a compromise formula which could still lead to early election and all-party talks...



A three-year-old boy is held aloft at a rally at Belfast City Hall yesterday at which thousands backed the continuation of the peace process

The Guardian has learned that British ministers are privately proposing a 90-strong forum, elected from 18 multi-member seats, from which small teams of negotiators would be drawn to negotiate in three parallel sessions...

mism — reinforced by IRA indications from Dublin that the bomb was a one-off gesture of frustration — stems from British claims that the Unionists will not seek further delay by demanding "talks about talks" in an elected forum...

those discussions in which they are involved — all of them in Britain's case; all but the internal "strand" talks about Northern Ireland's internal settlement in Dublin's...

Mr Major made plain, as Mr Bruton did at the weekend, that he will not talk to Sinn Fein until the ceasefire is restored, though civil servants may talk to local Sinn Fein politicians...

night's bombing and are expected to meet in London next week. Last night Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness said: "It is going to be very, very difficult indeed" to get another ceasefire...

On other pages
In Eilish McCabe's home, they don't have much time for the institutions of the crown. Yesterday, their front room was dark and tense as they sat in silence listening to John Major's speech...

Blunders over maths testing

John Carvel, Education Editor

GOVERNMENT embarrassment at the failure of more than half the nation's 11-year-olds to reach the expected standard in maths was compounded yesterday when it emerged that officials got the sums wrong by double counting tens of thousands of children who did not make the grade in their written tests...

NHS set to fund surrogate birth

Chris Millill, Medical Correspondent

THE first birth to a surrogate mother funded by the NHS could follow discussions between a health authority and a test tube baby clinic over the help to be given to an infertile couple...

John Parsons, head of the Assisted Conception Unit at King's College Hospital, south London, yesterday revealed that his clinic had been told by a health authority that it would meet the cost of a surrogate pregnancy, although detailed discussions were continuing...

planting them in the surrogate mother. IVF costs about £2,000 per course of treatment. Expenses for a surrogate mother would normally include loss of earnings, travel costs and clothing. Most surrogate mothers receive between £7,000 and £10,000...

on the NHS as a last resort for infertile couples. His unit received four or five requests a year for IVF treatment for surrogate pregnancies. Each case was decided by the hospital's ethics committee, after the couple and the surrogate mother had undergone psychological assessment and counselling...

Inside News 2, Letters 8, Comment 9, Obituaries 10, Financial news 11

G2

Real Lives 4/5, Law 7, Arts 8/9, Education 10/11, Women 12/13

Quick Crossword 15, Cartoons 15, Radio 16, Television 16, Weather 16

Blinking Hell

First the eyelids itch and swell up. Eventually they become so disfigured that the eyelashes turn inwards. Now every blink scratches the eyeball. Agonisingly slowly, agonisingly painfully, the victim goes blind. This is trachoma. Six million people in the developing world are needlessly blind because of it...

DELIVERY GUARANTEED

Form for donation to Sight Savers International, including fields for name, address, and payment details.





Association allows help for childless couples as 'last resort' ● 'Fortunate' woman tells of emotional reward and fulfilled ambition

# BMA rethink over surrogate mothers

**Chris Mihill**  
Medical Correspondent

**S**URROGATE pregnancies are acceptable as a last resort for infertile couples when other fertility treatments have failed, the British Medical Association said yesterday in a change of policy.

The BMA said doctors should advise patients about surrogacy if appropriate, and infertile couples should feel they can discuss the subject with health professionals without fear of recrimination or judgment.

Fleur Fisher, head of the BMA ethics division, said: "Surrogacy is here to help infertile couples, and it is important that we recognise that this is an area of infertility management that we need to learn about. All parties need the best quality of clinical and counselling care we can provide."

However, the BMA said surrogacy contracts could not be enforced in law, and that such arrangements were fraught with problems. But in most cases it had looked at the outcome had been positive.

The BMA originally advised doctors to have nothing to do with surrogacy, although later it told doctors they could help but that the two parties to the pregnancy should have as little contact as possible to lessen potential psychological problems.

The new advice, in a book for doctors and booklet for patients, says there are benefits from the surrogate mother

**'Surrogacy is here to help infertile couples, and it is important we recognise that this is an area we need to learn about. All parties need the best quality of clinical and counselling care we can provide'**

where the mother used her own eggs and sperm from the other woman's husband, there was often little medical involvement and both sides missed out on counselling.

Some women denied their pregnancy was surrogate, for fear that the child would be taken into care.

In other cases, where IVF clinics were involved, there was formal psychological assessment and counselling. "We want the same level of counselling and support as given by the IVF clinics to all people involved in surrogacy arrangements," she said.

The report backs the outlawing of commercial surrogacy but says it is reasonable that the surrogate mother receives expenses of £7,000 to £10,000.

The BMA says the voluntary agencies which set up surrogacy arrangements should be more closely monitored for the quality of advice they provided for couples, and that there needed to be more research into the effects of such births on the surrogate mothers, the parents and the children.

Ann Somerville, the BMA's adviser on ethics and the law, said there had been cases in which handicapped babies had been rejected by the would-be parents or when the surrogate mother had refused to hand over the child.

"The whole procedure is fraught with problems from beginning to end."

Changing conceptions of motherhood, the practice of surrogacy in Britain, British Medical Association, £5.95.

where the mother used her own eggs and sperm from the other woman's husband, there was often little medical involvement and both sides missed out on counselling.

Some women denied their pregnancy was surrogate, for fear that the child would be taken into care.

In other cases, where IVF clinics were involved, there was formal psychological assessment and counselling. "We want the same level of counselling and support as given by the IVF clinics to all people involved in surrogacy arrangements," she said.

The report backs the outlawing of commercial surrogacy but says it is reasonable that the surrogate mother receives expenses of £7,000 to £10,000.

The BMA says the voluntary agencies which set up surrogacy arrangements should be more closely monitored for the quality of advice they provided for couples, and that there needed to be more research into the effects of such births on the surrogate mothers, the parents and the children.

Ann Somerville, the BMA's adviser on ethics and the law, said there had been cases in which handicapped babies had been rejected by the would-be parents or when the surrogate mother had refused to hand over the child.

"The whole procedure is fraught with problems from beginning to end."

Changing conceptions of motherhood, the practice of surrogacy in Britain, British Medical Association, £5.95.



Deborah Brown with sons Nicholas (left) and Jordan. "The boys took my pregnancy in their stride. My eldest just said that it was a good thing to do"

# Host celebrates happy event of giving up baby

**Angella Johnson**

**T**WO weeks ago Deborah Brown gave birth to a beautiful boy after "a near perfect pregnancy." She then handed him to the childless couple for whom she had agreed to act as a surrogate mother.

"It was a very happy occasion. I was just the host surrogate. It was always their child. I just agreed to help them out by giving it a place to grow for nine months so there was no sadness."

It had taken four years of fertility treatment to fulfil her ambition to help others. "I have wanted to do this for a long time, ever since Kim Cotton became the first surrogate mother. I thought it was such an emotionally rewarding thing to do."

"I already had two boys (now aged five and 10) and did not plan to have any more, but really enjoyed the process of being pregnant. As I had a healthy body and no intention of using it for that purpose any more, I thought what better thing to do than put it at the disposal of others less fortunate."

The IVF treatment involved three embryos being injected into her womb in May last year by Professor Ian Craft, at the London Fertility Centre in Harley Street. A professional couple, who had gone through 18 years of infertility treatment, had paid about £4,000. Ms Brown, 30, a

single mother from Wiltshire, met the couple for the first time a year ago. She was given drugs and to build up the lining of her womb for the pregnancy. Some 12 days after the transfer one of the embryos had taken.

"I cannot begin to tell you how excited I was. At no time during the pregnancy did I waver in my feelings that this was not really my child. By then the couple had become friends and we shared the experience as much as possible."

She had already prepared her own children and family for the birth. "I had told my eldest some time ago about this desire I had to help others. He just said that it was a good thing to do. He understood that the baby was not related, but might be part of our lives. The youngest was only told after I became pregnant but he also took it in his stride."

Her mother was initially less understanding. "I don't think she was too comfortable with the idea at first, but now she is so proud of what I've done."

Ms Brown, who works part time in a supermarket, insisted that no money had been paid to her for having the baby.

"I don't really want to talk about money; it's a complex issue, because I don't think you can really pay someone to have a baby. But you can compensate them or pay expenses. "Oh yes, I would do it again."

# Record executive quits over pop charts 'hype'

**Alex Bellis**

**A**TOP record company executive has resigned from his position in the BPI, the industry body, after his label was implicated in the largest chart-rigging scandal for several years.

Andrew Cleary, managing director of Edel (UK) Records, said he was stepping down as the BPI's public relations chairman, but he denied being aware of his company trying to promote a single by mass-buying.

Edel was one of three companies alleged by the BPI to have "hyped" records by buying large numbers of them from shops to increase their chart positions.

Edel and Castle Communications have each been fined £30,000 by the industry, but no action has been taken against Love This Records as it is not a BPI member. Only one of seven records

concerned made the Top 40 - The Good Life by New Power Generation, which reached number 29 last August.

The fines, following a 12-month investigation, are the first since 1991 when two labels were ordered to pay a total of £52,000. Since then it was thought the increasing computerisation of chart compilation had made them too difficult to rig.

The current BPI investigation centres around poster company Rock Box Promotions, of north London, where about 3,000 copies of the records were found. A BPI spokesman said its evidence included receipts from record shops, video recordings and help from CIN, which compiles the weekly charts.

CIN is fed information weekly from 3,500 record stores, and for the last decade has had increasingly sophisticated computer programmes to weed out any irregular sales patterns. It withdraws

data from up to 30 stores every week on suspicion of chart-rigging.

CIN chart director Catherine Pusey refused to say what happened in the current incident, but the most obvious giveaways are many records being sold consecutively from the same outlet, or a record's sales peaking mid-week.

She added that she is often called by retailers who believe something dubious is going on, such as the same person coming in every week to buy a stack of the same records and asking for a receipt.

Mr Cleary said yesterday that the BPI's policy of not allowing an appeal was unfair, and the fine was too large. The last time a record company of similar size was accused it was fined only £2,000. He said he would like to make a legal challenge to the BPI but had to consider the costs.

Rock Box Promotions refused to comment yesterday.

# OVERDRAFT CHARGES FAR TOO WEIGHTY?

	TOTAL ANNUAL CHARGE FOR £200 OVERDRAFT	APPROVED OVERDRAFT RATE APR	APPROVED MONTHLY OVERDRAFT FEE
ABBEY NATIONAL	£3.11	9.9%	£0
BARCLAYS	£65.78	19.2%	£5
LLOYDS	£101.84	19.4%	£8
MIDLAND	£88.88	16.0%	£7
NAT WEST	£113.70	18.9%	£9

On an authorised overdraft of £200, for 5 days each month for a year, some banks charge thirty times as much as Abbey National. So, if you want your overdraft charges to be pounds lighter, move your current account to Abbey National. What's more, we'll give you a completely free overdraft for 4 months when you switch.

Not only could you enjoy more credit interest than with other High Street banks, but you can also use our 24 hour telephone banking service, have access to over 8,500 cash machines and we won't charge for the simple things like duplicate statements or stopping cheques.

Switching your account couldn't be easier. Simply call into your local branch to find out more, or phone for our simple to follow information pack and video that will take you through the whole process step by step. For your copy call us free on:

0800 375 375

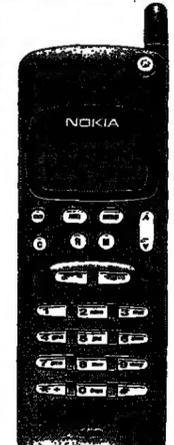


The habit of a lifetime

WAKE UP TO FRESHER BANKING.

# Nokia Digital Security. Cellphones Direct Prices!

LIMITED OFFER  
**£9.99**  
INC. VAT  
FREE CONNECTION TO VODAFONE Personal World



Trust Cellphones Direct to make a world of difference to digital phone prices. With FREE connection to the Vodafone PersonalWorld Tariff, so you can use the phone throughout the UK, most of Europe and beyond on the GSM international network. With digital call clarity and absolute confidentiality.

Simply phone us with your credit card details to receive your phone plus valuable extras within 4 working days.

**FREE** CONNECTION TO VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD

Monthly Rental	£17.63 (£15 + VAT)
Peak Rate Calls	42p per min (35p + VAT)
Off Peak Calls	18p per min (15p + VAT)

International calls extra. 2.00-15.00 per min. In-Homeland, roaming charges, all the standard £2.00 per min. See website for details. All charges are subject to change without notice. All charges are subject to change without notice. All charges are subject to change without notice.

**GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND**  
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

- NOKIA**
- GS111 MODEL 2010.
- ◆ 99 name/number memory
  - ◆ 100 mins talk-time
  - ◆ 30 hrs standby-time
  - ◆ Complete with standard battery and rapid travel charger
  - ◆ Weight approx 320g
- FREE IN-CAR ADAPTOR/CHARGER  
FREE SPARE BATTERY  
FREE LEATHER CASE  
TOGETHER WORTH OVER £75

Cellphones Direct

ORDER NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS  
**FREEPHONE 0500 000 888**  
CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 6PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT READY WHEN YOU CALL AND HAVE THE PIN CODE. CREDIT BY USE SUBJECT TO ACCEPTED CREDIT CHECKS. Offer subject to status and a standard status contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd, 185 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 4LN. Full written details and terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright. Registered No. 2595222.

مكتبة الجليل

سكنا من الصل

Silver and china goes on sale 50 years after being hidden from Russians in German forest. Owen Bowcott reports



Count Alexander zu Lynar-Redern in London yesterday to show off his family's 120-piece silver dinner service recovered after 50 years

Count's map kept secret of family's buried treasure

HUNDREDS of pieces of rare silver plate and Meissen china, buried more than 50 years ago in an east German forest to avoid advancing Russian troops, went on show in London yesterday.

The precise location of the family treasure had been recorded by Count Alexander zu Lynar-Redern on a hand-drawn map which he had kept since the final days of the second world war.

Then aged 16, the count was about to be drafted into the navy. Along with his widowed mother, Princess Victoria, their coachman, gamekeeper, and an estate worker, they dug a six-foot hole in the forest near the castle of Gorldorf, west of the River Oder.

On April 20, 1945 — Hitler's birthday — they carried out 15 packing cases of china and silver and covered them with earth. The count and the family fled westwards, and the treasure remained hidden in what later became the German Democratic Republic.

Last summer Count Alexander, now 67, hired an American treasure hunter, Gregory Mills, to locate the site. Stone markers were used to record the position were still in place, and with metal detectors the fortune was uncovered in less than an hour. Yesterday the

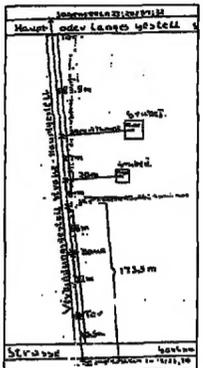
treasure went on show at Sotheby's in London, without a single piece missing — even though the packing cases had rotted away. The hoard is estimated to be worth £350,000, and includes a rare 120-piece Odier silver service dating from 1884, and Meissen china figures. The sale will be held in London and Geneva in May and June.

"It was the first time I have been home since the war," Count zu Lynar-Redern said yesterday. "We could have been shot by the Nazis for burying it against orders, and the Russians were getting closer all the time."

"When we found it again, it was wonderful. Everything else had gone. Our castle was burned down in 1945 and we only managed to take a few personal things and 20 of our horses to set up a stud near Kell after the war."

The sale proceeds will be shared with the count's brother, Ernst William, and his three sisters, Marie, Margaret and Elizabeth. No relatives of the coachman, estate worker or gamekeeper could be traced, the count said.

After the estate was seized by the Communists it became the private hunting ground of General Mielke, head of the Stasi, the GDR's secret service.



Digging up the treasure last year in the forest near Gorldorf, top; left, the count as he was in 1945 aged 16; and, right, the count's map of the treasure's location

Woman killed 'in drunken haze'

Soldier accused of manslaughter describes alcoholic life in army

Chris Drake in Larnaca

BRITISH soldier accused of killing a young Danish woman in Cyprus, portrayed himself to a court yesterday as an alcoholic, often too drunk for days on end to remember what was happening.

Alan Ford, 27, of the Royal Greenjackets, told Larnaca assize court that his recollection of the night Louise Jensen, aged 23, of Hirtshals, died was badly marred. "Whatever happened is because I was very drunk. My thoughts, my actions, my behaviour — I had no control over them because of the amount of alcohol I had consumed."

Ford, from Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, is one of three Royal Greenjackets accused of kidnapping, conspiring to rape and the manslaughter of Ms Jensen at a holiday resort in September, 1994. Her naked body was found battered beyond recognition in a makeshift grave.

All three defendants elected to make statements from the dock without taking the oath which allows the accused to address the court without being cross-examined.

Ford insisted he did not kill the victim. Reading from his own notes, he said: "After I hit the girl with the flat of my spade she was still alive. I know this because she was still breathing. And after the

spade was forcefully taken from me, she defended herself by raising her arms against further blows.

"I did not kill the girl. I had no intention of rape and neither did I try." He added that he was too drunk to recall who took the spade from him and dealt the killer blows.

Ford and his co-accused were stationed at the British Bases. "Before the incident, I had a heavy reliance on alcohol. It was not unusual for me to lose days or parts of days because of the amount of alcohol I often consumed."

Another accused, Geoffrey Parnell, 24, said he too was very drunk the night the girl died. He described his statements to police at the time as flashbacks but added: "No matter how hard I tried, I could not and cannot remember anything more. What I am sure of is that I did not do any

harm to the girl that night. I was in a state of shock when I saw what was happening but there was nothing I could do. I was so drunk, I was in no state to do anything but pace up and down by the car talking to myself."

The car he referred to was a yellow beach buggy owned and driven by the third defendant, Justin Fowler, 27, of Falmouth, Cornwall. It was used to kidnap Ms Jensen and take her into the countryside.

His father was in court to hear him say he stood by a second statement given to police in which he claimed the other soldiers were responsible and that he had been too scared to intervene.

However, in his first statement to police, he said Parnell struck the victim and that both had had sex with her. Ford had ordered him to do the same, but he failed.

Prisoners to pay toward their keep

Widdecombe seeks expansion of jail work for private companies

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

INMATES are to have part of the cost of their keep deducted from their prison wages under a scheme unveiled yesterday by the Home Office minister, Ann Widdecombe.

The move is part of a package to expand the amount of work done by inmates for private companies and the number earning "enhanced wages" of £30 to £50 a week.

The scheme, announced at the prison service annual conference in Brighton, will need new legislation, and ministers

are backing a private member's bill introduced by Hartley Booth, the Conservative MP for Finchley. For the first time, it will allow deductions from inmates' wages as contributions towards their board and lodging; towards supporting their dependants; and towards helping victim support measures.

Miss Widdecombe said that so far only about 1,000 prisoners earned more than the basic prison "wage" of about £7 a week paid by the state for duties such as cleaning and working in the kitchens. She hoped to see a big extension fuelled by an expansion of the amount of work done for

private companies. Private work undertaken by prisoners already includes preparing ingredients for pizzas and machinery for a national chain of shoe repairs.

The cost-cutting programme in the service, which would see the loss of up to 3,000 jobs, would make the task of "maintaining full and active regimes doubly difficult".

But she was sure that the professionalism of senior managers "will enable you to find savings in costs without damaging the levels of service".

However, she was not able to reassure her audience that the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, was any closer to finding a successor to Derek Lewis, who resigned as director-general last October amid

recriminations over the Parkhurst escape.

Richard Tilt was made the temporary director-general and four months later speculation continues that there are no other takers. Mr Tilt said that morale had been bruised by recent problems. But while the cost-reduction programme would be difficult it would not mean chaos and riots as some commentators had predicted.

An official inquiry was set up yesterday after two inmates at the high security Whitmoor prison, in Cambridgeshire, held a prison officer hostage for nine hours on Sunday.

They had a homemade craft knife. The incident ended peacefully after negotiators persuaded them to give up. They are expected to be charged.

**TELL HER YOU LOVE HER.**

**Esso PRICEWATCH**

Esso normally monitor fuel prices of supermarkets within 3 miles and other stations within 1 mile of participating Esso Service Stations.

**first direct**

06:30

Ian Francis enjoys his breakfast and settles his Visa bill.

11:15

Jake O Sullivan teases his mother as she asks about her mortgage.

23:30

Bob Sparks wakes with a start and calls to pay his gas bill.

**change your life change your bank**

no more rushing to beat closing time

Not all banks are the same. First Direct set out to change the face of banking in 1989. We were committed to providing a service that enabled customers to arrange their banking around their lives, on their terms. We recognised that bank closing times were a source of bitter frustration, so we are open every hour of every day of the year. One simple phone call, charged at local call rates, gives you access to a comprehensive range of banking services. From loans to overdrafting, savings to travellers cheques. One of our Banking Representatives will be on hand to take your call from wherever you are.

never be treated like a number again

Because First Direct does not need any high street branches, we can invest the cost savings we make into training and new technology. We recruit our staff first and foremost on the basis of their people skills and then equip them with the necessary banking acumen. Our customers find that they are always treated with care and courtesy and we are always looking for new ways to help. Take bill payment - our customers can arrange to pay their household bills by phone, simply telling us who to pay, how much and when. Our approach seems to be well received as 89% of our customers actively recommend us to their friends and colleagues.

manage your money your way

Many of our customers find that just a three minute call each month is all it takes to manage their finances. With every First Direct Cheque Account comes the First Direct Card, which guarantees cheques for up to £100. Your Card also allows you to withdraw up to £250 daily from the cash machines of Midland, NatWest, TSB, Clydesdale, Northern and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

benefit from free banking, even if you are overdrawn

Incurring punitive bank charges for going a few pounds overdrawn seems as nonsensical to us as it does to you. That's why at First Direct there are no charges for writing cheques, standing orders, direct debits and cash machine withdrawals, even if your account is overdrawn. You also get an automatic overdraft facility of up to £250 free of any arrangement fees, to help with monthly budgeting. All you pay is a competitive rate of interest on the precise amount you borrow.

Changing your bank is far easier than you might expect.

It is worthwhile because First Direct has changed banking for good.

The time is right. Call us now on

**0800 24 24 24**

\*Opening restrictions by MCF Market Research survey 1995 indicate account opening restrictions imposed after consultation by members between 1st October 1994 and 16 November 1994. Figures may be aged 18 or over. In order to safeguard our customers, certain restrictions may apply where conditions. First Direct reserves the right to change its terms and conditions for you. Before opening an account you must read the terms and conditions. For further details of our services, visit us on First Direct, Freepost 1000, Leeds LS2 2BP. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc, a member of MIRA. Member of the FSCS.

Post to: First Direct, Freepost MK 16, Leeds, LS88 2PS. (no stamp needed) to receive more information on First Direct.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms or Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (inc. std) \_\_\_\_\_

brates ent of baby

e quits hype'

urity. Prices!

Esso is a service product

00 888



Chris McGreal in Lagos reports on a creaking system of 'justice' which routinely condemns remand prisoners to years of brutality

# Innocent left to rot in Nigeria's jails

**W**ITH little else to do but pick at his lice and close his ears to the wheezing, near-naked mass around him, Benedict Kehinde sometimes wonders if it would not have been better to be convicted.

He would still have been welcomed to Kirikiri prison, in Lagos, with a pummeling by the other inmates until his cell had been forced to sleep with the "shit bucket" spilling on to him until a new prisoner arrived as the virgin of the cell.

But the Nigerian prison system treats those who have been sentenced marginally better than the masses waiting endlessly for a trial. Perhaps he would have risen to

be the all-powerful "cell boss" who made life a kind of hell for others.

As it was, Mr Kehinde, like most Nigerian prisoners, spent seven years in Kirikiri and was never convicted of any crime.

Baba Gana Kingibe, the internal affairs minister, made the unusual admission two weeks ago that there was something appallingly wrong with Nigeria's judicial and prison system. The wheels of justice turn so slowly that two-thirds of the inmates — more than 35,000 people — are awaiting trial. Some have been held as long as 10 years.

Many do not survive the violence, starvation rations and disease that have beset Nigeria's Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO) to call the coun-

try's jails "tombs without tombstones".

Mr Kehinde, now aged 43 and begging on the streets of Lagos, admits that he was illegally hooking his shack home to overhead power cables when the police descended.

He took it in his stride until he was accused of stealing electricity but of sabotaging the power grid — an offence that carries up to life imprisonment.

The police said they needed time to investigate. A judge sent Mr Kehinde to Kirikiri prison, which is filled to capacity twice over.

"It was a big shock that first time I saw the cell. There was no room for me. The men were like the dead. Even the beggars on the street have more clothes. Even the beg-

gars are not so starving. I thought if they put me in there I would never come out alive," he said.

As he stood dumbfounded, a fist struck Mr Kehinde behind the ear. He staggered into other prisoners. It was the excuse they needed to "punch" him. He collapsed under the blows and kicks until he lay coughing blood on to the filthy cell floor.

The ritual beating over, new prisoners are hauled before the "cell boss" and assessed a "state tax" for his cell sleep in shifts. The privileged have cardboard between them and the cold concrete floor. There is little natural light and ventilation. Some jails were built when Queen Victoria was Nigeria's supreme ruler.

Food is the daily obsession. The government budgets seven pence a day to feed each prisoner. Water is equally scarce. Osaize Lanre Ehonwa, head of the CLO's prison investigations, estimates that dozens of prisoners die in Nigerian jails each week.

"Most die from undernourishment and disease. The cells are not washed. Prisoners don't have clothes. Disease is rampant. Their rags are infested. And they are weak because they are starving," he said.

**'I prayed every day to get out of there. I was beaten so many times, even now I cannot walk properly'**

## Amnesty warns Arafat on abuses

Ian Black  
Diplomatic Editor

**A**MNESTY International has issued a sharp warning to the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, not to permit human rights abuses by his security forces — and urged countries which back the peace process with Israel to be more vigilant.

In an unusual move, Amnesty's secretary-general, Pierre Sané, told the Guardian yesterday — as Mr Arafat was being sworn in as president — that there could be no "special pleading" by the Palestinians because of their own suffering under the Israeli occupation.

"Human rights abuses are being justified by the need to ensure the success of the peace process," Mr Sané said. "Public opinion is being manipulated in order to obtain tacit approval of violations and restrictions."

Mr Sané's comments followed a meeting with Mr Arafat in Gaza last week in which the Palestinian leader failed to promise that the work of human rights groups would not be hindered. Mr Arafat said that no one was "above the law," but refused to commit himself to end abuses.

Amnesty is concerned because of arbitrary detentions of suspected Palestinian opponents of the peace process. Reports of torture in detention have been rife and six prisoners have died in custody. State security courts have held trials in secret. Nine separate bodies, equally unaccountable, handle security matters.

Mr Arafat won elections three weeks ago and took his oath of office before the acting head of the Palestine National Council, Salim al-Zaanoun, and chief justice, Qusai al-Abadleh. The ceremony took place at the headquarters of the Palestinian legislative council in Gaza.

Under his self-rule deal with Israel, Mr Arafat will head a Palestinian government during an interim period until both sides agree on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Talks are to begin in May but progress is likely to be delayed by Israel's general election.

Israel's prime minister, Shimon Peres, asked for the dissolution of parliament yesterday to allow for early elections on May 21.

Mr Arafat told Mr Sané last week that he was under pressure from both Israel and the United States to crack down on enemies of the peace process — mainly militant Islamists. But Amnesty's message is that he must now be treated like any other leader and accept responsibility for his government's actions.

"We shouldn't take it for granted that Palestine will be different from other Arab states when it comes to human rights protection," Mr Sané said. "And governments supporting the peace process are not living up to their international obligations in ensuring that human rights standards are maintained. We need to exercise the same degree of scrutiny as we do with other regimes. There can be no special pleading."

Amnesty has also criticised Israel for human rights abuses and urged it to ban the use of torture, including the "physical pressure" currently permitted.

Palestinians scuffled with Israeli soldiers in the West Bank yesterday during protests against Israeli restrictions on movement outside FLO-ruled towns, witnesses said.

Israel erected roadblocks around the towns of Ramallah and Qalqilya, barring Palestinians from leaving and Israelis from entering. An Israeli army spokeswoman said the closures were imposed "for security reasons".



Oath of office... Yasser Arafat is sworn in at the Palestinian legislative council in Gaza yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: NATH HARRIS

## World news in brief

### Rampaging troops kill 24 Tamils

**SRI LANKAN** troops went on the rampage in the east of the country over the weekend, killing at least 24 Tamil civilians and wounding at least 25 others, politicians and some of the wounded said yesterday.

Two Tamil MPs, Sivasinghamparam and Arunasalam Thangathurai, said at least 24 civilians — including women and children — were killed by soldiers on Sunday in Kumarpuram, eastern Trincomalee.

Military spokesmen said they had no information of any such attack, but army officials privately said the allegations were true. They said the troops had gone on the rampage after Tamil rebels had killed two soldiers earlier in the day.

Wounded civilians at Trincomalee hospital said they saw soldiers break open the doors and windows of houses and fire at those inside.

Earlier yesterday, police defused a 330lb truck bomb, which was also packed with ball bearings, in a temple compound on the northern outskirts of the capital, Colombo. The site is within a mile of the cricket stadium where a joint India-Pakistan team is due to play Sri Lanka today. — *Reuters, Colombo.*

### Bangladesh poll setback

**BANGLADESH'S** ruling Nationalist Party yesterday faced a new threat to its plans to hold a general election — already boycotted by all the main opposition parties — after civil servants said they would not staff polling booths.

Senior civil servants, representing more than 1,000 public employees, yesterday said they would defy an order to report as returning officers for Thursday's vote.

"There is no security," complained one bureaucrat. "Yesterday two of our colleagues were hurt in a bomb attack."

Although the opposition has vowed to disrupt the polls, the bureaucratic boycott could be far more harmful. Radio and television presenters have said they will not report on the election. — *Suzanne Goldberg, Dhaka.*

### Rock refuses to budge

**RESCUE** workers again failed yesterday to blast a giant boulder off a collapsed Japanese road tunnel where 20 people have been trapped for more than two days.

The second attempt to use dynamite to dislodge the slab weighing about 50,000 tonnes from the shattered roof of the tunnel, about 30 miles north-west of Sapporo on Hokkaido island, barely moved it.

The boulder crashed through the tunnel roof on Saturday morning, trapping 19 people in a bus and a motorist in a car. When it fell, a 40-yard stretch of the tunnel's ceiling crashed down from just inside one of the tunnel entrances.

Since the accident there have been no signs of life from the vehicles and some rescue officials believe the victims died instantly, crushed under rock. — *Reuters, Tokyo.*

### Italian motorway carnage

**AT LEAST** 11 people were killed and more than 100 injured in a pile-up on a fog-bound motorway in northern Italy yesterday, police said.

About 260 cars were involved in the crash between the cities of Vicenza and Verona.

Police said the first accident happened on the westbound lane, but then cars heading east slowed to view the carnage and caused a mass pile-up.

Police said they had not yet worked their way through all the vehicles involved, and feared the death toll might rise.

It was Italy's worst road accident since 1989, when 13 people died in a pile-up in the centre of the country. — *Reuters, Rome.*

### Territorial disputes deepen

**POLICE** seize a student demonstrating outside Japan's embassy in Seoul, South Korea, against Japanese claims to two islands. Tokyo yesterday also faced a possible row with China over other islands. The disputes have been sparked by Japan's plans for a 200-mile economic zone around its shores.

Taiwan, meanwhile, said it was forming a cabinet council to ease tensions with China. — *Reuters, Tokyo and Taipei.*

PHOTOGRAPH: ANH YOUNG-JOON

**Ice sculptures are familiar enough as elaborate decorations, but while we're used to frozen flights of swans and fanciful, glacial castles, this is chill-out minimalism.**

## Bahrain faces general strike

Kathy Evans

**T**HE Bahraini opposition has announced a general strike, starting in the next few days to coincide with the feast marking the end of Ramadan and the year's biggest shopping spree.

A call has gone out to all shopkeepers and schools to observe the strike, though opposition sources say they are not asking employees to join for fear they may lose their jobs. It is the first such national strike to be called in the Gulf.

The strike call comes as staff at Bahrain's Diplomat Hotel continue the clear-up after Sunday night's bombing which injured four people. This was the second bomb to hit a hotel frequented by foreigners; scores of others have targeted public places and shopping precincts.

Bahraini businessmen had been hoping for a consumer boom over the holiday to boost flagging sales and deflation. In normal circumstances, the end of Ramadan would have been marked by an influx of thirsty Arabs from the neighbouring "dry" states of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

"I think many Saudis will cancel after this second bomb," one hotelier said. "With luck the government and the opposition will start talking about peace soon."

## 'Cursed' tourists send souvenir rocks back to aboriginal site

Reuters in Sydney

**T**OURISTS who pocketed pieces of Australia's most famous rock have started sending them back to Uluru national park, complaining that the souvenirs brought a curse on their lives, the park's manager said yesterday.

Julien Barry is encouraging belief in the curse to end the souvenir-hunting at Uluru, formerly known as Ayers Rock. He said he had received a few packages a month for the past two years from people who felt their pieces of rock brought nothing but bad luck.

He said officials in Uluru national park, in the outback about 1,200 miles west of Sydney, and the rock's aboriginal owners refer to them as "conscience rocks".

He described one letter as typical of the dozens he had received from around the world. A New Zealand man wrote of his son's bad luck after taking pieces of the rock. He said his son's father-in-law had died and his son had broken his back in a motorcycle accident.

Mr Barry, who does not believe in a curse, said: "We are jumping on the bandwagon by saying to people that it's an offence to take rocks as souvenirs. It's culturally inappropriate."

## Zimbabwe election sows cynicism among farmers

Andrew Meldrum in Harare

**B**USY pulling weeds from her maize field, Mentha Nyamzamba says this is the best rainy season Zimbabwe has had for years and she is looking forward to a bumper harvest.

"I know we have presidential elections," Mrs Nyamzamba said. "But I don't have time to think about them, I'm busy with my crops. These elections won't make much difference anyway."

Apathy has greeted President Robert Mugabe's campaign to win re-election for another six years. Five weeks before the March 16 and 17 presidential polls, no banners, posters or slogans can be seen in Zimbabwe's cities.

In rural areas, where 70 per cent of the 11 million people live, there is little discussion about the presidential race.

"People are not interested in these elections," said a farmer, Shadreck Mushamba. "Many people would like change, but they know it is useless to expect anything from these elections. People are afraid to voice any criticism. The party and the Central Intelligence Organisation have active networks here and no one wants to be identified as opposition supporters."

Few Zimbabweans support the opposition candidates, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, aged

**G2 page 8**









After decade of rapid growth in US, gaming groups look across Atlantic



Wheel deals... Sharon Stone in Martin Scorsese's movie, Casino, which opens in London this month. Now gambling Las Vegas-style may come to the UK. PHOTOGRAPH: PHILIP DANIEL

# Las Vegas contemplates a gamble on London

OUTLOOK/Britain's casino business is opening up in advance of deregulation. IAN KING reports

AMERICAN casino operators are eyeing up some of their British counterparts, according to market sources. London Clubs International is the likeliest bid target. London Clubs, whose shares yesterday hit a new closing high of 499p, up 13p, is just one of several groups...

is reportedly considering building a casino and leisure complex on wasteland on the north Kent coast. There are several reasons why America's leisure combines are focusing on Britain. First, the US gaming industry is at saturation point...



But if the Government's proposals are as sweeping as is rumoured, analysts say London - now home to 21 of Britain's 118 casinos - could become the world's biggest gambling city after Las Vegas. There are, however, a number of snags which would prevent an immediate wave of takeovers of British casinos.

# Biggest drop in producer inflation for 15 years Factory prices set scene for rate cut

Larry Elliott Economics Editor THE City was gearing up last night for a further cut in the cost of borrowing, after official data showed weak demand prompting the biggest fall for 15 years in the underlying inflation rate of goods leaving factory gates.

to 6 per cent next month. January is the month in which firms tend to change their list prices, but the 0.4 per cent increase last month was well down on the 1.0 per cent recorded 12 months earlier, the CSO said. The underlying rate of producer price inflation - which strips out food, beverages, tobacco and petroleum because they can be affected by budget tax changes - showed an even bigger fall, from 4.4 per cent to 2.6 per cent. Officials said the last time there had been a larger drop in the core rate of producer prices was in January 1981, when the economy was deep in recession.

# Jobs U-turn 'a Tory ploy'

Richard Thomas ABOUT yesterday accused the Government of attempting to woo insecure workers back to the Conservative fold by tearing up its derogatory agenda in the jobs market.

back job regulations. Ian McCartney, shadow employment spokesperson, said: "This is a government running scared of its own policies, reaping the reward from the deregulated market it has created, and from a plague of job insecurity." But Mr Forth said that the removal of strict job conditions had been good for the efficiency of the market and for workers. Excessive regulation and minimum wages made companies reluctant to take staff on, by raising the cost of labour and making it more difficult to shed staff if conditions worsened.

# Trafalgar wins £500m steel job from Thais

Tony May THE struggling Trafalgar House group looks to have won the biggest-ever deal between Britain and Thailand, to construct a 2433 million-to-£500 million steelworks for Thai Special Steel, TSSI.

# News in brief Record double for Kvaerner

KVAERNER, the Norwegian shipbuilding, oil, pulp and paper group which failed in a \$360 million bid for Amec construction at the end of last year, yesterday reported double pre-tax profits for 1995. They climbed to a record 2.44 billion crowns (\$247 million) on sales of 30.2 billion crowns (\$3 billion).

# Axe out at Renault

RENAULT, the French car giant, is planning to cut more than 2,750 jobs over the next 12 months, according to union sources. Though the state-owned company has refused to comment, an unnamed union representative, quoted on the Reuters financial news service, accused Renault of trying to intimidate the workforce ahead of this year's pay round, which opens today, by threatening jobs.

# Accountants spurn marriage

CHARTERED accountants have turned down plans to merge with the management accountants' professional body, CIMA, in another blow against integration of the fragmented profession. CIMA members, who predominantly work in industry and commerce, were overwhelmingly in favour of the merger plans, announced in December.

# PIA praises banks' move

THE UK's largest banks will not use time-barring to avoid paying compensation to victims of mis-sold pensions. Abbey National, Barclays, Lloyds/TSB, Midland, NatWest and Royal Bank of Scotland, all members of the Bancassurance group of the British Bankers' Association, followed the lead of the Prudential which last week said it would not exploit the Limitation Act 1980.

# Bryant sales slump in poor house market

Tony May BRYANT yesterday blamed the "pretty awful" state of the housing market for a slump in profits and sales, but raised tenuous hopes for an improvement this year. The chairman, Sir Colin Hope, said six-month profits to November 30 had more than halved to \$10.1 million with "a distinct lack of house purchaser confidence throughout the UK".

Looking ahead he said: "The prospects for the housing market in 1996 are showing signs of gradual improvement as purchaser confidence responds to reduction in personal taxation and interest rates." He hoped to see an improvement in operating margins and stuck to the medium-term target of producing 4,000 homes a year for the middle-to-upper sectors of the market. The group has now joined other UK home-builders which had produced worse-than-expected results for the second half of 1995 but predicted a recovery this year. Michael Foster, an analyst

Advertisement for British Heart Foundation. Text: HALF OF ALL DEATHS ARE FROM HEART AND CIRCULATORY DISEASE. HEARTS FIGHTS BRITAIN'S No 1 KILLER. CALL 0990 200 656. Includes a small logo for the foundation.

Twick... wants Euro... England's kicked... Racing... Eider pu... Aintree... Swinburn... of of

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

Rugby Union

Twickers wants Euro soccer

Robert Armstrong

TWICKENHAM plans to market itself as a venue for European soccer and rugby... The installation of floodlights over the stadium...

New fly needs luck of the Irish

Karl Johnson on David Humphreys, latest hope for the long-service award

SINCE Jackie Kyle started the trend at least 50 years ago, Ireland fly-half has tended to be in the running for long-service awards... Mike Gibson and Barry McGann had sizeable tenures in the No. 10 shirt...



In with a shout... Humphreys celebrates his try for Oxford in December's Varsity Match defeat

Athletics

Sprint record smashed

Stephen Bierley

FRANKIE FREDERICKS got his Olympic year off to the swiftest of starts last night by setting a new 100 metres indoor world record of 10.05 in Tampere, Finland... British supporters of Colin Jackson will have to get used to home thoughts and information from abroad this year...

England kicked aside by Alred

DAVE ALRED, widely regarded as the world's leading specialist kicking coach, will not be working with the England squad in the build-up to next month's Calcutta Cup match against Scotland at Murrayfield, writes Chris Hewitt... Alred will be in Australia coaching New South Wales during their final preparations for the southern hemisphere Super-13 tournament...

England kicked aside by Alred

Following the England fly-half Paul Grayson's dismal kicking performance against Wales, Alred has still not been contracted as a fully fledged member of the national coaching set-up... Alred will be in Australia coaching New South Wales during their final preparations for the southern hemisphere Super-13 tournament...

England kicked aside by Alred

Following the England fly-half Paul Grayson's dismal kicking performance against Wales, Alred has still not been contracted as a fully fledged member of the national coaching set-up... Alred will be in Australia coaching New South Wales during their final preparations for the southern hemisphere Super-13 tournament...

England kicked aside by Alred

Following the England fly-half Paul Grayson's dismal kicking performance against Wales, Alred has still not been contracted as a fully fledged member of the national coaching set-up... Alred will be in Australia coaching New South Wales during their final preparations for the southern hemisphere Super-13 tournament...

Racing

Eider pulls in Aintree hopes

The probable Eider favourite when the Tote publishes their prices today will be Lord Relic, who has been nursed back to fitness after sustaining a serious injury at Newbury 14 months ago... Clark hopes to be represented in Saturday's race by Lord Relic, who has been nursed back to fitness after sustaining a serious injury at Newbury 14 months ago...

Kelso runners and riders with form guide

Table containing race results and form guides for Kelso. Columns include race number, horse name, jockey, and various statistics. Races listed include 1.40 South Coast, 2.10 Perthmore, 2.40 Chief Minister, 3.10 Direct Route, 3.40 Royal Pines, 4.10 Royal Pines, 4.40 South The Coast, 5.40 Direct Route, 6.10 Royal Pines, 6.40 Royal Pines, 7.40 Direct Route, 8.10 Royal Pines, 8.40 Royal Pines, 9.40 Direct Route, 10.10 Royal Pines, 10.40 Royal Pines, 11.40 Direct Route, 12.10 Royal Pines.

Lingfield (A.W. Flat)

Table containing race results and form guides for Lingfield (A.W. Flat). Columns include race number, horse name, jockey, and various statistics. Races listed include 1.50 Shorty, 2.50 Royal Pines, 3.50 Royal Pines, 4.50 Royal Pines, 5.50 Royal Pines, 6.50 Royal Pines, 7.50 Royal Pines, 8.50 Royal Pines, 9.50 Royal Pines, 10.50 Royal Pines, 11.50 Royal Pines, 12.50 Royal Pines.

Results

Table containing race results and form guides for various tracks. Columns include race number, horse name, jockey, and various statistics. Races listed include 1.40 South Coast, 2.10 Perthmore, 2.40 Chief Minister, 3.10 Direct Route, 3.40 Royal Pines, 4.10 Royal Pines, 4.40 South The Coast, 5.40 Direct Route, 6.10 Royal Pines, 6.40 Royal Pines, 7.40 Direct Route, 8.10 Royal Pines, 8.40 Royal Pines, 9.40 Direct Route, 10.10 Royal Pines, 10.40 Royal Pines, 11.40 Direct Route, 12.10 Royal Pines.

Swinburn 'out of danger'

WALTER SWINBURN has regained consciousness after his horrific fall in Hong Kong on Sunday, but remains sedated in intensive care... Swinburn's mount, the new-comer Liffey River, proved sharply right across the Sha Tin course shortly after the start.

Swinburn 'out of danger'

WALTER SWINBURN has regained consciousness after his horrific fall in Hong Kong on Sunday, but remains sedated in intensive care... Swinburn's mount, the new-comer Liffey River, proved sharply right across the Sha Tin course shortly after the start.

Swinburn 'out of danger'

WALTER SWINBURN has regained consciousness after his horrific fall in Hong Kong on Sunday, but remains sedated in intensive care... Swinburn's mount, the new-comer Liffey River, proved sharply right across the Sha Tin course shortly after the start.

Swinburn 'out of danger'

WALTER SWINBURN has regained consciousness after his horrific fall in Hong Kong on Sunday, but remains sedated in intensive care... Swinburn's mount, the new-comer Liffey River, proved sharply right across the Sha Tin course shortly after the start.





